

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 JUSE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7936

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 01788

PLEASE PASS DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP
SUBJECT: VISIT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL, SECRETARY
MARSHALL AND OTHERS

1. DURING THE COURSE OF A DISCUSSION MORNING JANUARY 31
WITH FORMIN ROEL ABOUT UPCOMING VISIT BY DELEGATION LED
BY ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL, ROEL SPOKE WITH PRESIDENT AND
OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THESE
DISCUSSIONS ROEL REPORTED THAT THE PRESIDENT WANTED ROEL
TO FOREGO ATTENDANCE AT A MEETING PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO
HAS CONVENED OF ALL OF MEXICO'S GOVERNORS IN QUERETARO ON
SATURDAY SO THAT ROEL COULD PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM
FOR THE BELL VISIT.

2. LAST NIGHT ROEL CALLED ME AT HOME AND SAID HE WAS AT
LOS PINOS AND THAT HE HAD BEEN MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT.
APPARENTLY, THE PRESIDENT IS NOW OBLIGED TO BE AWAY FROM
MEXICO CITY ON FRIDAY. HE HAS INDICATED A WILLINGNESS
TO FLY BACK TO MEXICO CITY FOR THE SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT
WITH THE BELL DELEGATION FRIDAY EVENING, BUT THIS APPOINT-
MENT CLEARLY REPRESENTS AN INCONVENIENCE TO HIM THAT HAD
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NOW BEEN EXPECTED. ROEL FURTHER NOTED THAT HE HAD SOME-
HOW THOUGHT THAT OSCAR FLORES WOULD IN FACT BE SUFFICIENTLY
RECOVERED FROM HIS ILLNESS SO AS TO BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE MEETINGS AS HOST, BUT ROEL NOW REALIZED THIS WAS
NOT THE CASE. ROEL ALSO MENTIONED THAT BOTH HE AND THE
SECRETARY OF LABOR WOULD FOREGO THE QUERETARO MEETING OF
GOVERNORS. HE APOLOGIZED FOR THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. HE

QUOTED THE PRESIDENT AS SAYING THAT IF POSSIBLE, HE WOULD PREFER TO SEE THE MEETING OCCUR IN A "MORE RELAXED ATMOSPHERE", BUT THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS MENTIONED ABOVE IN HIS OWN SCHEDULE AND THAT OF HIS CABINET OFFICERS.

3. EMBASSY HAS INITIATED CONTACT WITH TERRY ADAMSON TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER, BUT STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE TRIP SHOULD NOT BE MADE IN THE FEBRUARY 3-5 PERIOD. EMBASSY REALIZES THAT RE-SCHEDULING FOR A LATER DATE MIGHT PROVE DIFFICULT OR PERHAPS, IMPOSSIBLE, BUT ALLOWING FOR THE DIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE AND THE EVIDENT GOM DESIRE NOT TO OFFEND THE U.S., NEVERTHELESS SEES THE ROEL STATEMENT AS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT THE GOM FEELS THAT THE VISIT THIS WEEKEND WOULD NOT BE WELL RECEIVED. EMBASSY HAS NOT TOLD GOM THAT THE CHOICE MAY LIE BETWEEN A BELL PARTY VISIT ON FEBRUARY 3-5, AND NO VISIT; BUT AT THIS STAGE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS WOULD ALTER THE GOM POSITION, WHICH IS FIRM AND TAKEN AT THE PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL. LUCEY

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